IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6 to 10 without prejudice, add new claims 11 to 16, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a preform for optical fibers, said method comprising: **providing a core glass cylinder having a longitudinal axis,** producing a fluorine-doped SiO_2 cladding glass on ~~a~~ **the** core glass cylinder rotating about ~~a~~ **the** longitudinal axis thereof, **said producing** including feeding a plasma burner with a silicon-containing starter substance, said starter substance being oxidized in a plasma flame of the plasma burner **so as** to obtain SiO_2 particles, and depositing the SiO_2 particles in layers on a cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder in the presence of fluorine and sintering said SiO_2 particles deposited into the cladding glass, wherein said plasma flame emits ultraviolet light in one or more wavelengths ~~in a range~~ **of** about ~~a wavelength of~~ 214 nm at an intensity of at least 0.9 μW, determined on the basis of a plasma flame intensity measurement, during the forming and depositing of the SiO_2 particles on the core glass cylinder.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plasma flame emits said ultraviolet light at an intensity ranging from 1.0 μW to 1.4 μW.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder is kept at a surface temperature ranging from 1550°C to 2000°C during deposition of the SiO_2 particles, and wherein the core glass cylinder has an outer

diameter of at least 40 mm.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder is kept at a surface temperature ranging from 1700°C to 1900°C during deposition of the SiO_2 particles, and wherein the core glass cylinder has an outer diameter of at least 60 mm.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the SiO_2 particles are deposited on the cylindrical outer surface in layers having a layer thickness such that optical fibers derived from the preform have optical fiber layers yielded by the layers of the deposited SiO_2 particles, and said optical fiber layers have respective layer thicknesses of not more than 0.05 μm in the optical fibers.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A method for producing a preform for optical fibers, said method comprising:

providing a core glass cylinder having a longitudinal axis; and

producing a fluorine-doped SiO_2 cladding glass on the core glass cylinder rotating about the longitudinal axis thereof;

said producing including

feeding a plasma burner with a silicon-containing starter substance, said starter substance being oxidized in a plasma flame of the plasma burner so as to obtain SiO_2 particles; and

depositing the SiO_2 particles in layers on a cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder in the presence of fluorine; and

sintering said SiO_2 particles deposited into the cladding glass;

wherein, during the forming and depositing of the SiO_2 particles on the core glass cylinder, said plasma flame emits UV radiation having a wavelength of 214 nm at an intensity such that the UV radiation of the cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder produces a damage layer in an area of contact between the core glass cylinder and the layers of SiO_2 particles applied to the cylindrical outer surface, said damage layer blocking the passage of the UV radiation therethrough so that the core glass cylinder is shielded thereby from damaging effects of further UV radiation as the SiO_2 particles are formed in the plasma flame and deposited.

12. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein said UV radiation has an intensity of at

least 0.9 μW, determined on the basis of a plasma flame intensity measurement, during the forming and depositing of the SiO_2 particles on the core glass cylinder.

13. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein said UV radiation has an intensity ranging from 1.0 μW to 1.4 μW, determined on the basis of a plasma flame intensity measurement, during the forming and depositing of the SiO_2 particles on the core glass cylinder.

14. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder is kept at a surface temperature ranging from 1550°C to 2000°C during deposition of the SiO_2 particles, and wherein the core glass cylinder has an outer diameter of at least 40 mm.

15. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the cylindrical outer surface of the core glass cylinder is kept at a surface temperature ranging from 1700°C to 1900°C during deposition of the SiO_2 particles, and wherein the core glass cylinder has an outer diameter of at least 60 mm.

16. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein the SiO_2 particles are deposited on the cylindrical outer surface in layers having a layer thickness such that optical fibers derived from the preform have optical fiber layers yielded by the layers of the deposited SiO_2 particles, and said optical fiber layers have respective layer thicknesses of not more than 0.05 μm in the optical fibers.